

REMARKS

Status of the Application

Claims 1-27 and 47-49 are all the claims that have been examined in the pending application.

By this Amendment, Applicant is amending claims 1 and 13, and canceling claims 8, 20 and 49. Additionally, withdrawn claims 28-46 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to pursuit in a divisional application.

Preliminary Matters

Applicant thanks the Examiner for initialing the references filed with the Information Disclosure Statement filed on January 18, 2006. Applicant also thanks the Examiner for accepting the drawings filed on November 25, 2005.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 8, 20, 27, 47, and 48 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging that claims 8, 20, 27, 47, and 48 are allowable if rewritten in independent form. By this Amendment, in order to expedite prosecution of this application, Applicant is rewriting claims 1 and 13 to include the limitations from claims 8 and 20 respectively. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1 and 13 are immediately allowable. The remaining claims depend either from claim 1 or claim 13 and, therefore, should also be allowable.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

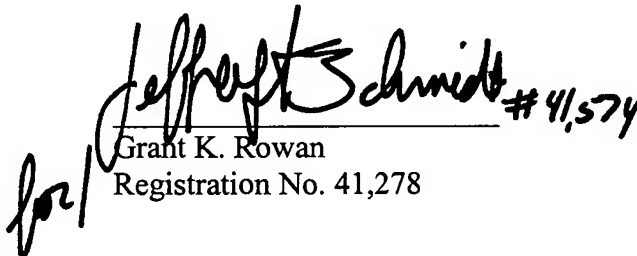
Respectfully submitted,

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